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Michael McMahon MSP

18 March 2013

Thank you for your invitation (ref TG.01) to give evidence on benefit sanctions to the Welfare Reform Committee at the Scottish Parliament on 29 April 2014.

As you are aware Social Security matters are reserved to the UK Government therefore my accountabilities as Minister for Employment are first and foremost to the UK Government and Parliament. I am however more than happy to meet with you in an informal capacity to discuss my Department's policy on sanctions.

If you wish to meet on this basis I would be grateful if your officials could contact minister.employment@dwp.gsi.gov.uk to make the necessary arrangements for a meeting.

Also if it would assist I am prepared to arrange for one of my senior officials to attend the Committee at a timing of your convenience.

I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State for Scotland, Alistair Carmichael.

With best wishes,

Esther McVey MP
Minister for Employment